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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION Office of Distribution Marketing Reports Division 821 Market Street. Room 700 San Francisco 3, California

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WFA SWEET POTATO LOAN PROGRAM STARTS ANOVENTIS

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 3 --- Producers dealers and cooperative associations will be able to obtain loans on sweet potatoes beginning November 15, under a War Food Administration landing program announced last March 4.

Donald E. Wilcox, regional supervisor of the WFA fruit and vegetable branch, said today that loans will be available on cured sweet potatoes packed in standard crates, hampers or baskets in lots of 1,000 bushels or more. Requests for loans or information should be made to state and county agricultural conservation committees, which will handle details of program operations in the field.

Lending rates per bushel of U.S. No. 1 grade sweet potatoes are as follows: November 15 through December, \$1.50; January, \$1.65; February, \$1.75. The rate is 15 cents less for each No. 2 grade bushel containing not less than 75 percent U.S. No. 1 quality sweet potatoes.

Wilcox said all loans will be secured by chattel mortgages and bear 3 percent annual interest. They are payable on demand no later than April 15, 1945, but may be satisfied either by repayment or by delivery of the potatoes.

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TOMATOES OFFERED TO PROCESSORS --- The WFA will sell original processors 22,116 cases of canned tomatoes packed 24 No. 2 cans to the case, as its third selling offer on a government-held stock which initially totalled 166,214 cases.

The tomatoes are of sub-standard grade, packed in 1942, and are being released for civilian use because they are no longer needed by war agencies. Offers to purchase must be received by the WFA Sales Division not later than November 17, *1944. Original processors of these tomatoes were the Preston Canning Co., Kent Packing Co., and H. B. Wright Co. of Maryland. The tomatoes are held in that state.

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